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THE DAILY CLIPPER

S. D. RICH, Editor.

OFFICE—Corner of Main and Church Streets.

FOR PRESIDENT OF THE CONVENTION.

We notice that the question of who shall preside over the constitutional convention, is being somewhat discussed by a number of our exchanges, but so far there does not seem to have been any one proposed who meets with anything like a general endorsement for the position. In our opinion no more suitable man for presiding officer of that body can be found than Col. William Priest, of Ralls county. Col. Priest is a native of Virginia, but one of the pioneers of Missouri, having lived in Ralls county, we believe, for over forty years. He has a large experience in public affairs, has served several terms in the legislature, is a good parliamentarian, a man of splendid physique and fine voice, and is withal a staunch, life long Democrat, and consequently a man of sterling good sense. The honor of an election to the convention was conferred upon him unsought, nor would he now seek the position with which we have herein connected his name, although he would accept it we are confident if tendered to him. He is one of the old time men who thinks there should be honesty in public as well as private life, and is one of the few men of the present day who is brought into public life while acting strictly upon the principle that the office should seek the man. We have no doubt that a suitable man will be elected president of the Missouri constitutional convention, but the eminent fitness of Col. Priest for that position causes us to speak of him as we do.

HOTEL WANTED.

The greatest want of Hannibal today is a first class hotel. We are fully up with the times here in almost everything, and the country cannot afford better inducements for supporting what we lack. Here we have the great Mississippi river, with a magnificent railroad and wagon bridge across it giving us the entire benefit of the vast country opposite, which is unsurpassed in productiveness by any country in the world; here are six lines of railway centering here and in operation, some of them among the most important in the country, and having their general offices and car and machine shops here, and besides these other roads are projected and certain to be speedily built; here we have the largest lumber market west of Chicago employing over \$1,500,000 capital, with annual sales amounting to over 100,000,000 feet of lumber, and paying out over \$250,000 yearly for labor in this city; here we have extensive lime manufactories, making a very superior quality of lime which is shipped to all points west, where it has a preference over all other lime; here we have extensive flouring mills whose flour products bear on the palm wherever sold, over all other brands, and another magnificent new mill is just being put into operation; here we have some very creditable business blocks, and some as live, enterprising and progressive business men as can be found anywhere; we have one of the handsomest streets in the western country, and some of the handsomest dwellings and grounds; we have magnificent churches and eloquent divines; we have a prosperous college and well conducted public schools; we have able attorneys, skilled physicians, bankers, brokers, money lenders, gentlemen of leisure, fast young men and beautiful maidens, yet with all these advantages and many more which might be enumerated, we regret to say we have not a first class hotel. We do not mean by this that the place is destitute of hotel accommodations, but we do mean that there is not a hotel in Hannibal which, either in its appointments or in the manner in which

it is kept, offers any attractions whatever to the traveling public, and the result is that the hotels here are only patronized as people are absolutely forced to patronize them. For ordinary, second class houses, at second class prices, there are several hotels here which answer the purpose very well, and the manner in which some of them are kept and the prices charged, give good satisfaction to their patrons. But we need something more than this and we need it greatly. When a man pays \$2.50 per day for transient board in these times he expects something better than ordinary boardinghouse fare, and if he don't get it he is not likely to stop at that place again if he can avoid it. We want a hotel here to cost in the neighborhood of \$50,000. Some think that a more expensive one would be better, but if we could have one to cost this amount, and have it properly kept, it would fill the bill, and it would be difficult to find a place where it would pay better. Here then is the opportunity for hotel men, and a better one cannot be found. We have no doubt that the right kind of a party or parties, with money to invest in the enterprise, would be generously encouraged by property owners here; who realize the necessity of a good hotel here. A first class hotel in Hannibal now would benefit the place more than any other one thing, and there is a fortune in it to the man who understands the business.

HANNIBAL & ST. JO. LANDS.

The interest which attaches to the Hannibal & St. Jo. land question since the promulgation of the opinion of Attorney General Hoekaday, and the recent action of the legislature relating thereto, caused a representative of THE CLIPPER to call upon Capt. Drane, the H. & St. Jo. land commissioner, to-day, to ascertain what is thought of the matter at the land headquarters of the railroad company. Capt. Drane said that he was at a loss to know what had caused the attorney general to give such an opinion, as there was nothing whatever in the grant upon which it could be based with any shadow of reason. The grant was made by the general government to the state, and by the state to the railroad company for a specific purpose upon certain conditions, which had been fulfilled to the letter. No title, therefore, could be more perfect than that of the railroad company to the lands in its possession, and in all the land suits which the company had, and some of which had been carried to the Supreme Court of the United States, no question in regard to the company's title had ever been raised. The resolution by the legislature requiring the president of the railroad company to furnish an exhibit of the amount of lands sold &c., Capt. Drane thinks entirely unnecessary as under the present statute regular reports of all sales are made to the Register of Lands at Jefferson City, and therefore it would be a very easy matter to ascertain the amount undisposed of. The Captain thinks that the attorney-general's opinion and the action of the legislature in reference to it, may cause some exceedingly timid people who have bought railroad land to feel somewhat uneasy in regard to the title, but the slightest investigation would speedily convince them that there was not the least occasion for alarm. The company gives a general warranty deed for lands sold, and the title is beyond dispute.

MILLER ITEMS.

The public school at Turner's school house, will commence the first Monday in April. Miss Mollie Gentry has been employed as teacher.

They are talking of getting up a musical entertainment in Miller, for the benefit of Bear creek church. They have home talent out there, that might be turned to good account, in so good a cause.

Miller Grange meets to-night. Hereafter the meetings of the grange will be held the first and third Sat-

urday nights of each month. The meetings are well attended, and of interest and profit to the farmer.

Col. Wm. Priest has been the pastor of Bear creek church over twenty years, and during the time he has received for his services, on an average, about enough money to keep his horse shod. His flock, however, were able and willing to pay, but he did not ask for more.

WOODLAND ITEMS.

Miss Dora Maston and Mr. Marcus Lear were married at the residence of the bride's father, last Wednesday.

Stock at all the public sales recently made in the vicinity of Woodland, has sold very high considering the scarcity of money.

Farmers in Warren township are preparing to put in a large crop. Since the snow wheat looks by far better, and the belief now seems to be that the crop is not very much injured.

Mr. Fielding Ray has sold his dry goods and grocery store in Woodland to James Ownley, a very clever young gentleman, possessed of good business qualifications. Mr. Ray also goes to California. He sells his personal property on Thursday, 25th inst.

The California fever is running high in the neighborhood of Woodland. Mr. W. W. Smith, J. C. Smith and Wm. Earheart have disposed of their property for the purpose of emigrating. Jacob Earheart and Preston Young make public sales of their property to-day for the same purpose, and will soon take up their journey to the far west.

Mr. Lambert has left Walnut Springs with his dairy, and moved to the farm of Mr. P. B. Groat at Woodland, where he will conduct the dairy business on a larger scale. Something more than a year ago Mr. Lambert and his wife commenced business with one cow and \$105 in money. He bought a number of cows on credit, which he has since paid for,—in fact, investing in stock for his business since he commenced over \$1500, and he is now out of debt. Any one with a knowledge of the business, prudence, economy and industry, may meet with the same success.

The sale of the personal property of the estate of Jacob and Ada Clayton, in Ralls county, yesterday, resulted as follows: One yearling mule to Asa James, \$31; one cow, J. Bowling, \$31.50; forty head of shoats, \$2.15, each; four calves, Thompson Clayton, \$5 each; one aged mare, J. B. Parsons, \$17; one young mare, Chas. Hatch, \$23; one seven year old horse, Asa James, \$98; one large Berkshire sow, J. R. Parsons, \$16; one sow, Fred Newland, \$9; one sow to same, \$7.25; one stack of hay, \$13.50; one stack of hay, \$13; twenty shocks of corn, \$1.25 each. A credit of six months, without interest was given on all sums over ten dollars.

SUMMARY OF DISPATCHES.

The following telegram was received by the Western Union Telegraph Company, from San Francisco, yesterday. It relates to the wheat crop: "The crop is in splendid condition. A large average yield is secured; but if copious rains come within two weeks, there will be the largest harvest ever known."

A special says, at the roll call of the Cheyenne Indians at Cheyenne Agency last Friday, Catherine Germaine, one of the white girls recently held captive by that tribe, identified four of the Indians who murdered her father and mother. They were Medicine Water, who shot her father, and a squaw who burned one of her sisters and two others. The remaining thirteen murders could not be found. During the roll call several young Indians fled from camp and were pursued by cavalry but were not captured.

A dispatch from Harrisburg says the flood in the Susquehanna has done considerable damage between Middletown and Columbia. At Bainbridge several houses were destroyed. Along the railroad line the track is covered eight or twelve feet with ice, for a distance of a mile or two. The telegraph lines are de-

stroyed from eight to ten miles. Families living on the island were forced to the roofs. The whole front of St. Marietta, a mile and a quarter long, is reported filled with ice to the height of from thirty to thirty-five feet.

A very important criminal case, and one which is enlisting the general attention of the citizens of McLean county, Ill., from the prominence of the parties interested, is now being tried in Circuit Court, at Bloomington; Andrew H. Rutledge, complainant, bringing suit against Philip Crouse, a wealthy stock raiser, for the seduction of his wife, a beautiful and accomplished woman, and daughter of Rev. H. A. Thomas, a Presbyterian clergyman of Leroy, Ill. The best of legal talent is employed on both sides, and the case promises to be one of more than usual interest.

At Port Deposit, Md., the flood is fearful. The water is from five to six feet deep in the streets. Nothing like it was ever seen before. Nearly the whole town is flooded, and there is great destruction of property. No lives have been lost so far. The railroad depot is full of water, as well as the telegraph office, which was abandoned in a boat. At Harve De Grace the ice is gorged. The wharfs are flooded, and whole piles of lumber have been swept away from them. Large numbers of men are engaged in catching it. A street near the river, above the bridge, is completely blocked with ice, wood and lumber, and the water is about ten inches deep in the street, but is falling slowly. The canal tow-path, at the upper end of town, is covered with ice.

Jim Field, alias Friend, a notorious counterfeiter, whose base of operations has, until recently, been at St. Joe, Mo., was arrested in Ottumwa, Thursday. Shortly after the train left Creston, and while it was running at the rate of twenty miles an hour, Friend asked permission to go to the water-closet, which was granted. The officer suspected his motive, and went out on the platform to watch him. Presently Friend raised the window and jumped out, falling upon his head and shoulders. The officer immediately followed, alighting alongside the prisoner. Both rolled over two or three times, but the officer was the first to regain his feet, and, seizing the prisoner by the throat, held him there until the train was stopped and backed up, when he was again placed on board, taken to Keokuk and lodged in jail. Both the officer and the prisoner were injured to some extent. A roll of counterfeit money was found upon Friend's person when he was arrested.

HISTORY OF A REMARKABLE CASE.

A Man Tried for Murder Fourteen Years After the Crime was Committed.

[Special dispatch to the St. Louis Democrat.]

RUSHVILLE, ILL., March 17.—A singular case is now occupying the attention of the citizens of this town, the history of which is as follows: On the 15th of June, 1861, one Thos. Zeigler, of this place, was fatally wounded by a pistol shot. At the time he was in the house of a notorious woman—the "Dutch woman"—where liquor was sold. He lived three days. The verdict of the coroner's jury was "death from a pistol-shot wound." The statement of Zeigler was that "at about 10 o'clock at night, it being very dark, he went to the 'Dutch woman's,' and at the window asked for liquor, which was refused. Just then a stone struck the door and he turned to leave, when the door was opened, a pistol fired, and at the same moment John Gammon came running around the house with a stick of stove-wood in his hand, and began beating him, saying, 'God's sake, John, don't kill me; I'm shot!' Gammon, with an oath, replied: 'I shot you, and intended to kill you!' By other testimony the presence of Gammon in the house that night was established. Gammon acknowledged to the beating, but denied any knowledge of the shooting. The woman in the case claimed that she fired the pistol, and ten or fifteen witnesses will so testify. Gammon and the woman were arrested, and, upon examination before a justice of the peace, were committed to the October term of the circuit court. Soon afterward a number of prisoners broke jail, and, in company with them, Gammon escaped. On Zeigler's dying testimony a true bill was found against Gammon by the grand jury, but the woman was not indicted. Gammon's escape saved him from trial, but the case was continued for eight years, and then stricken from the docket with permission to renege.

A few days ago Sheriff Campbell, having learned that Gammon was living in Edinburg, Ill., went there and arrested him, and returned with him to this place on Thursday. On Friday he was admitted to bail in the sum of \$5,000, which was immediately secured at his home, and to-morrow he will be released. The case has some strange features. For about fourteen years the accused has lived in Edinburg—in the meanwhile, by industry and intelligent skill, having acquired fine property, and by a good course of life gained the esteem of the whole community. Public opinion here is strongly in his favor. We can see nothing in the case to prove his guilt; but, if guilty, it shows the Nemesis of crime in a remarkable way.

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